progress and it is hoped that water will be let down the channel in the near future.

The question of the introduction of steam navigation in the Travancore canals and backwaters is still under consideration. The formation of a Canal subdivision sanctioned during the year under review was given effect to recently.

Marahmut Department.—The expenditure incurred by this department amounted to Rs. 3,39,237. The outlay was mostly on repairs to existing buildings connected with palaces and religious institutions.

15. **Anchal.**—The number of Anchal offices was 150 as in the previous year while that of letter-boxes was 184 or one less than in 1080. Over 56 lakhs of covers, official and private, passed through the offices during the year, showing an increase of over 1½ lakhs. 78,789 hundies were issued for Rs. 10,50,552. Two new denominations of stamps, *i. e.*, 4 cash and 6 cash stamps were introduced during the year for private cards and newspapers.

16. **Devaswoms.**—The reports of the two special officers appointed last year for the compilation of *padivus* and the investigation of the question of purificatory ceremonies in temples have been recently received and are receiving attention.

17. **Separate Revenue.**—The excise system continued in the Trivandrum and Padmanabhapuram Divisions while the farming system was in force in the Quilon and Kottayam Divisions. At the end of the year the triennial lease expired in the latter two Divisions and opportunity was taken to extend the excise system to the Quilon Division from the beginning of the current year. But the Kottayam Division continues to be worked under the farming system as there are practical difficulties in working the excise system in that Division. The excise system in regard to opium and bhang worked during the year and resulted in an increase of revenue.

Salt.—The out-turn of home salt was 2,91,444 maunds. The sales of home and foreign salt were 8,21,001 maunds against 7,83,547 in 1080. Though there was an increase in the quantity of salt sold, the revenue showed a falling off of Rs. 1,39,480 which was due to reduction in the duty.

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Customs.—In view of the increased demand for lemon-grass oil, its tariff value was raised from Re. 1 to Rs. 5 per lb. and the duty from 1 to 2½ per cent.

18. **Sanitation.**—The number of births registered was 41,825 and that of deaths 31,740. 1,58,661 persons were vaccinated during the year, of whom 8,932 were infants. The year was quite free from cholera, but small-pox prevailed in an epidemic form in the North. All vaccinators and conservancy overseers were during the year supplied with Sir Lauder Brunton's snake-bite outfits, and it is satisfactory to note that all the sixteen cases of snake-bite treated were successfully cured.

19. **Medical Relief.**—The permanent medical institutions consisted of 23 hospitals, 21 dispensaries, 2 asylums (one for lunatics and one for lepers) and 10 aided institutions.

As a result of the Medical Conference held in July 1905 an Ophthalmic Hospital was newly opened at the Capital, the Maternity Hospital was amalgamated with the Women and Children's Hospital, and the plague camps at Aramboly and Shencottah and the weekly and bi-weekly dispensaries were abolished.

The total number of in-patients treated was 17,454 and of out-patients 5,64,886 against 15,574 and 6,15,861 respectively during the last year. The pupils entertained in 1079 in the midwifery class attached to the Victoria Jubilee Hospital at Quilon completed their course and passed the final examination. A fresh batch of 8 paid pupils and 3 volunteers are now undergoing training. A compounders' class of 20 pupils was opened in the General Hospital in April last.

Veterinary Hospital.—288 cases were admitted for treatment during the year. An outbreak of glanders appeared likely in the town in the early part of the year and precautionary measures were promptly taken. 2 horses and 5 ponies were destroyed. A small staff is retained for effectively dealing with such cases and preventing the spread of the disease.

20. **Public Instruction.**—The total number of schools in 1081 was 3,439 and the strength 1,93,446 as against 3,631 and 1,95,999 respectively in the year previous.

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